

## From the President

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It's definitely interesting times in which we live! While we can only speculate on the outcomes of much of what is happening now, our scholarly contributions are even more important in this time of fake news and alternative facts. The focus of our conference in Hong Kong, **Unreal Estate? Rethinking Housing, Class and Identity**, could not be more timely with themes that including financialization, inequality and social stratification, migration, the right to the city and social justice. And looking ahead, the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology will focus on how scholars, public intellectuals, policy makers, journalists and activists from diverse fields can and do contribute to our understanding of **power, violence and justice**. I hope that you can attend one or both of these meetings!

Janet Smith, RC43 President

## ISA and RC43 events

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2017 June 18-21, City University of Hong Kong. RC43. Call for Papers out now and extended to February 28, 2017! Click [here](#) for more info.  
Send to RC43.conference2017@cityu.edu.hk

2018 July 15-21. Toronto, Canada. XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology. The Call for Sessions is open until March 15, 2017, with the Call for Abstracts to follow. Click [here](#) for more info.

## Housing in the Time of Trump

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Every day, the President of the United States is in the news with a new policy or program or nomination for office. This should be a local story, but because of the immense influence that the United States of America has on global affairs, the potential impact of these decisions is tremendous. The President has implemented (or tried to implement) policies that affect global interstate relations, trade and economic relations, the environment and movement of people across international borders, among others.

Although much of the resistance and critique of the President's policies are directed at him, his actions are only one part of a larger and more dangerous process. Riding upon a wave of right-wing populism, the 'alt-right' in the United States—also known as white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and the like—is taking advantage of the current climate to build their numbers and infiltrate government institutions. This parallels the trend towards right-wing governments in Europe, bolstered in part by xenophobic fears of migration, and in other parts of the world as well.

There are several implications of this increasing global trend towards authoritarian rule for housing. First, ongoing conservative and neoliberal policies continue to commodify and privatize housing. This is not new, but for those who cannot afford market prices, good quality housing is increasingly out of reach. Second, racist and xenophobic frameworks for policy creation and budgeting—or even frameworks that do not take race, gender or other modes of oppression into consideration—exacerbate existing inequities in access to housing and housing supports, increasing segregation and racialization and feminization of poverty. Finally, refugees and economic migrants increasingly find themselves without a home country or host country to welcome them. This is homelessness at a global scale.

Even as these policies march forward, resistance around the world has been strong and unrelenting. While housing scholars have been challenging neoliberal and racist policies for decades, the new context

brings with it new challenges. There is hope in the large, visible demonstrations against authoritarian rule, and in the small, individual acts of solidarity. The turn towards authoritarianism needs new frameworks and new global relationships. Housing—and the creation of homes—is still foundational to the work of creating just societies.

## Updates

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Manoj Kumar Teotia organized a **Film Screening-Direction Home and a Panel Discussion- Housing for the Urban Poor/ Homelessness in the Region** at CRRID on April 8, 2016. The film made by Professor (Dr) Hilary Silver, Director, Urban Studies Programme at Brown University was shown to the invited audience. The panel discussion, moderated by Manoj Kumar Teotia, was addressed by eminent speakers such as Dr Harjit Singh Anand, IAS (ret'd), Mrs. Madhu Sarin, Architect-cum-Development Planner, Ar Surinder Bahga, Saakaar Foundation, Chandigarh, Dr K Gopal Iyer, Former Professor, PU, Chandigarh, Dr S S Sangwan, SBI Chair Professor, CRRID, Mr Sunil Bansal, Associate Professor, CRRID and Dr Bindu Duggal, Associate Professor, CRRID.

**ISA membership** Joining ISA provides many benefits, including discounts on SAGE publications and access to SAGE journals, and reduced registration fees for the ISA World Congress. It also offers the possibility of scholarships through RC43, but you must be an ISA member to be considered!

Please send ideas for updates as well as books, publications and events to feature on relevant housing and built environment policy, theory and practice to [isa.rc43@gmail.com](mailto:isa.rc43@gmail.com).

## Of interest: Other items and happenings

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**Call for 2018 ISA Sessions is open!** Our RC43 has a total of **9 paper sessions** and 1 session for our business meeting.

Please submit a proposal for a **paper session** that you would like to organize to Janet Smith ([janets@uic.edu](mailto:janets@uic.edu)) by March 14, 2017. The expectation is that you will help recruit papers for this session and will review them for acceptance. A session can accommodate 4-5 papers.

Abstracts will be accepted April 25–September 30, 2017 via the online Confex platform. Abstracts must be submitted in English, French or Spanish. Only abstracts submitted on-line will be considered in the selection process. Abstract selection will be completed by November 30, 2017.

## New books and publications from our Members

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*City and Community*. 2016, December. Volume 15(4): 347-2.

[onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cico.2016.15.issue-4/issuetoc](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cico.2016.15.issue-4/issuetoc)

This special issue of *City and Community* looks at public housing in the United States.

Morris, Alan. 2016. *The Australian Dream: Housing Experiences of Older Australians*. CSIRO Publishing.

[www.publish.csiro.au/book/7269/](http://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7269/)

From the publisher: “Australia is experiencing a significant demographic shift – the proportion of the population that is aged 65 years and older is increasing substantially and will continue to do so. With this shift comes particular housing challenges for older people. *The Australian Dream* examines the impacts of housing tenure on older Australians who are solely or primarily dependent on the age pension for their income. Drawing on 125 in-depth interviews, it compares the life circumstances of older social

housing tenants, private renters and homeowners – their capacity to pay for their accommodation, how this cost impacts on their ability to lead a decent life, maintain social ties and pursue leisure activities, and how their housing situation affects their health and wellbeing.”

Blaikie, Norman and Jan Priest. 2016. *Social Research: Paradigms in Action*. Polity.

[politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9780745671840](http://politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9780745671840)

*Contact us for an RC43 discount code for this book!*

This is an important introduction to social research, unique in helping readers to set the necessary philosophical groundwork to find solutions to social problems. It works through the three most common paradigms of social research, and includes extensive applications and examples of the paradigms in action in connection to key social problems of current times. It was written by an established and highly respected author of research methods texts.

Boccagni, Paolo. 2017. *Migration and the search for home: Mapping domestic space in migrants' everyday lives*. Palgrave. [www.palgrave.com/de/book/9781137588012](http://www.palgrave.com/de/book/9781137588012)

From the publisher: “This book explores the impact of transnational migration on the views, feelings, and practices of home among migrants. Home is usually perceived as what placidly lies in the background of everyday life, yet migrants’ experience tells a different story: what happens to the notion of home, once migrants move far away from their “natural” bases and search for new ones, often under marginalized living conditions? The author analyzes in how far migrants’ sense of home relies on a dwelling place, intimate relationships, memories of the past, and aspirations for the future—and what difference these factors make in practice. Analyzing their claims, conflicts, and dilemmas, this book showcases how in the migrants’ case, the sense of home turns from an apparently intimate and domestic concern into a major public question.”

Teotia, Manoj Kumar. 2016. *Urban Development in Northwestern India: Emerging Trends, Concerns and Strategies*. CRRID. [crridres.academia.edu/manojteotia/Books](http://crridres.academia.edu/manojteotia/Books)

Based on compilation of extensive data on various aspects of urban development in North-Western India, the book is an attempt to contribute to the existing debate on emerging trends, concerns and strategies in urban development in India. With the discussion on the city and state level case studies from the region, the volume tries to explore how state and city governments in North-Western India have been dealing with the emerging urban issues and challenges and what sort of local policies are emerging to deal with the growing crucial urban problems. The volume provides good source of relevant data/ information to planners, local and state level policy makers and students of urban studies.

## RC43

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